



# LOUISIANA SENATE

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## **SEN. BROWN MOVES TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF TEACHERS TO DO THEIR JOBS WITHOUT FEAR OF ARREST**

### **BROWN'S SENATE BILL 608 SCHEDULED TO BE CONSIDERED BY FULL SENATE NEXT WEEK**

District 2 State Senator Troy Brown does not believe a teacher or any other school employee should fear possible arrest for just doing their jobs. To that end, Sen. Brown urged and received approval of Senate Bill 608 by the Senate Committee on Judiciary B. The bill establishes a statewide protocol for how law enforcement officials should deal with complaints filed by parents alleging some crime committed by a school employee against their child as the result of the employee's normal job duties.

"Senate Bill 608 is in response to an unfortunate situation that occurred recently in East Baton Rouge Parish where a teacher was actually handcuffed, arrested and carted off to the police station at the school after a parent filed a complaint claiming the teacher had assaulted her child in the process of disciplining the student for a uniform violation. While prosecutors failed to pursue any charges, that kind of thing ought not to happen to teachers, educators and other public servants in our schools. Our teachers are the backbone for the success of our kids' education. They deserve our trust, confidence, and most importantly our support," Sen. Brown said.

The proposed change in state law would set up a uniform protocol for law enforcement to follow when complaints are filed against teachers and other school employees. Instead of an arrest when a complaint is filed, a summons would be issued to the school employee who allegedly committed a misdemeanor against a student in the course of the employee's work. Law enforcement officials would still have the option to arrest if there is evidence of physical injury to the student.

As Sen. Brown explained, "There is an attempt at a common sense compromise where law enforcement officers can do their jobs, school employees can still operate with a reasonable level of authority without fear of arrest, and student safety is still preserved."

The proposed new law was developed in collaboration with teachers' groups and law enforcement officials, including the Louisiana Association of Educators and the Louisiana Sheriff's Association. Senate Bill 608 could be considered by the full Senate as early as Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Senate is scheduled to convene at 4:30 p.m. Monday.

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